

listed as \$26.96 in medicine, as against \$15.87 in dentistry, \$11.05 in law, \$10.52 in engineering, and \$5.92 in commerce.

Income sources that may be drawn upon in medical schools attached to state and municipal universities amount to \$693.91 for each student; but in medical schools not so affiliated, the income sources are available up to \$1,230.78 per student.

The average of general hospital beds available per student was 14.2; the figure for San Francisco given as 24.5, and for Los Angeles, 19.7 beds.

The reports contain much other information of value, and the data cited above should be of interest both to recent and older graduates. Physicians attached to medical faculties, therefore, may wish to scan further the text of the departmental surveys.

NEW NARCOTIC REGULATIONS

Instructions Should Be Read.—On page 306, in this issue of the OFFICIAL JOURNAL, appears a notice received from the Division of Narcotic Enforcement of the State of California* regarding the new regulations governing the writing of prescriptions for narcotic drugs, which will go into effect on July 1, 1940, as provided in a law enacted by the California Legislature in 1939. All physicians who are authorized to write narcotic prescriptions will receive their first forms and instructions from the Department. Thereafter, request must be made for the blanks.

Special attention is called to this new law and its provisions, since nonobservance by a physician may lead to more than embarrassment with the constituted state authorities, whose duty it is to enforce the provisions of the Act. Take time, therefore, to read the announcements by the State Narcotic Department, whose officials, through Chief Paul E. Madden, have endeavored to provide blanks that may be given to patients without revealing the nature of the drugs prescribed. Cordial cooperation between members of the medical profession, the state authorities and others concerned, will go far in eliminating misunderstanding and friction.

ON VARIOUS TOPICS

Accidental Deaths in California in 1939.—Last year California recorded 6,092 deaths due to accidents in a total of 77,093 deaths from all causes. Among the deaths due to accidents, 408 were of occupational nature, 1,645 occurred in the home, 2,831 were due to public motor-vehicle causes, and 1,151 to public factors, exclusive of motor-vehicle relationship.

It is interesting to note that, in California, deaths due to accidents were exceeded in number only by the following: diseases of the circulatory system

(25,703), this figure showing, if subdivided by major age groups: 3,415 deaths between ages 65 and 69; 3,739 between 70 and 74; 3,930 between 75 and 79; 3,010 between 80 and 84; other age groups in lesser numbers; cancer (9,652); and diseases of the nervous system (6,931). Worthy of special note, also, is the fact that, in spite of the lure the State of California holds for patients afflicted with tuberculosis, there were, in 1939, only 3,906 deaths due to tuberculosis in all its forms.

By age periods, the principal cause of death between the age group 1 to 39 was due to accidents; tuberculosis having second place in the age period 5 to 39.

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Honorary Membership to Lay Citizens in Medical Societies.—A recent letter sent to its members by the Wayne County Medical Society (Detroit), in announcing a meeting program, contained these paragraphs:

The necessity of the medical profession using its every influence in helping to maintain the American way of life in America is increasingly important. The theme of the evening will center around the citizenship of the doctor and the present importance of the influence of the medical profession, not alone as relating to domestic problems but in its relationship to international problems. . . .

Five honorary memberships will be given to outstanding citizens, representing aspects of life important to the medical profession and America, viz.: Business, the Judiciary, Civic and Political Affairs, and the Arts and Sciences.

Mention is made of the action taken by this prominent component county medical society because it may be worthy of consideration by other units in organized medicine. If such type of membership is adopted by a medical society, it naturally follows that the bestowal of the honors should have received most careful preliminary thought; and also that the presentation of the honorary memberships be done with dignity, and in proper time and place. Nor should it be forgotten, in connection with any organization, that "honorary membership" is esteemed, in good part, in proportion to the reputation of those who are the recipients of such honors. When such a form of membership is authorized, its worth should be properly maintained to make it of real value to a medical association.

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Alabama Resolution Concerning the Patenting of Drugs or Medical Appliances.—A resolution recently received, and appearing below, will probably cause considerable discussion; since much can be said in favor of moderate royalties when levied by nonprofit foundations, and the proceeds of which are used to promote further research in medicine. A pertinent query which could be put, therefore, is this: Can the profits from royalties demanded by nonprofit foundations, whose objects are the advancement of medical science, do greater good for humanity than would accrue if such royalties were not demanded?

The nonprofit foundations usually stipulate that the quality of their products shall be maintained, that being one of the reasons patents are taken out. It is to be regretted, of course, if the royalties

* Address of the Department is 156 State Building, San Francisco.

Narcotic laws are listed under Division 10 of Health and Safety Code. Under Chapter 1097, Statutes of 1939, and amendments: Chapter 60, approved April 7, 1939; Chapter 1097, approved July 25, 1939; and Chapter 1079, approved July 25, 1939.